

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21(canceled, without prejudice).

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method of operating voice traffic bearing packet switched network, the method comprising:

receiving at a gateway to the packet-switched network, an information stream including encoded voice-band traffic originating from a voice terminal outside the packet-switched network;

directing the information stream over the packet-switched network to an authentication service and thereby establishing a connection between the voice terminal and the authentication service;

upon authentication by the authentication service, dissociating the information stream from the authentication service, re-directing the information stream via the packet-switched network to establish a connection with a target device; and

wherein the directing is based, at least in part, on first destination identifier supplied with the encoded voice-band traffic originating from the voice terminal.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method of operating voice traffic bearing packet switched network, the method comprising:

receiving at a gateway to the packet-switched network, an information stream including encoded voice-band traffic originating from a voice terminal outside the packet-switched network;

directing the information stream over the packet-switched network to an authentication service and thereby establishing a connection between the voice terminal and the authentication service;

upon authentication by the authentication service, dissociating the information stream from the authentication service, re-directing the information stream via the packet-switched network to establish a connection with a target device;

authenticating a credential associated with the information stream using the authentication service;

wherein the directing is based, at least in part, on first destination identifier supplied with the encoded voice-band traffic originating from the voice terminal;

wherein a second destination identifier is supplied from the voice terminal coincident with the authenticating; and

wherein the second destination identifier is selective fore the target device.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method of operating voice traffic bearing packet switched network, the method comprising:

receiving at a gateway to the packet-switched network, an information stream including encoded voice-band traffic originating from a voice terminal outside the packet-switched network;

directing the information stream over the packet-switched network to an authentication service and thereby establishing a connection between the voice terminal and the authentication service;

upon authentication by the authentication service, dissociating the information stream from the authentication service, re-directing the information stream via the packet-switched network to establish a connection with a target device;

authenticating a credential associated with the information stream using the authentication service;

wherein the directing is based, at least in part, on first destination identifier supplied with the encoded voice-band traffic originating from the voice terminal;

wherein the first destination identifier includes a phone number corresponding to the authentication service; and

wherein a second destination identifier selective for the target device is supplied from the voice terminal coincident with the authenticating.

Claims 25-28 (canceled, without prejudice).